



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE.

3623
A. Patricia Lewis
#9/25
7/6/03

IN RE: APPLICATION OF: Guy O. Bargnes
SERIAL NO.: 09/602,922
GROUP ART UNIT: 3623
FILED: June 23, 2000
EXAMINER: Meinecke Diaz, Susanna M.
FOR: COMPUTER-IMPLEMENTED VEHICLE
REPAIR ANALYSIS SYSTEM
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: IN-5398

RESPONSE TO REQUIREMENT FOR INFORMATION

UNDER 37 CFR § 1.105

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Madam:

RECEIVED
JUN 30 2003
GROUP 3600

The following is in response to the Requirement for Information under 37 CFR § 1.105, which was mailed on 4/25/2003. In particular, the Examiner is requesting information that identifies products and services embodying the disclosed subject matter of tracking various business metrics associated with a shop, such as a shop specializing in collision repair, and identifying the properties of similar products and services found in the prior art.

In response to this request, applicant encloses four VisionPLUS® documents. VisionPLUS® is a comprehensive group of value added programs and tools from BASF, who is the assignee of the subject application. The value added programs and tools currently include educational programs, online tools, facility layout programs, and warranty programs. In other words, VisionPLUS® handles much of BASF's value added programs separate from BASF's sale of paint.

The enclosed documents include a VisionPLUS® Custom Business Solutions brochure from 2003, which identifies the most recent programs found under the VisionPLUS® umbrella. Also included is an internet discussion of the VisionPLUS® Value Added-Services. This internet discussion can be found at www.visionplus.basf.com. In addition, a copy of the login page for VisionPLUS® Online is enclosed. This login page can be found at www.visionplusonline.com. Finally, a copy of a login page for the BASF Refinish website, which is found at www.basfrefinish.com is included¹. The Examiner is encouraged to visit and explore these websites. In particular, the Examiner is encouraged to take the online tour at the VisionPLUS® Online website and the guest tour at the BASF Refinish website. As can be seen from the VisionPLUS® brochure and the VisionPLUS® Value Added-Services internet discussion, VisionPLUS® incorporates a number of different programs and interactive tools. The VisionPLUS® Online tool is the subject invention disclosed in the present application.

During the Examiner's research into the subject invention, the Examiner uncovered two articles relating to VisionPLUS®. The first article briefly discusses BASF's VisionPLUS® Online. The article was found in an Automotive Body Repair News magazine from November 2002. The Examiner specifically requests information regarding this VisionPLUS® Online discussion, including the earliest date of disclosure to the public. As confirmed with Charles Kelly, who is an inventor on the subject application, the VisionPLUS® Online invention was first presented to the public in December 2000 at the International Autobody Congress and Exposition (NACE). The Automotive Body Repair News article indicates that a demonstration of the VisionPLUS® Online invention was done at NACE 2000. Upon an investigation into when the NACE 2000 show occurred, it was found that this show was held on December 7-10, 2000, which is consistent with the inventor's confirmations. This date is evidenced by the enclosed internet printout from the Automotive Service Association (ASA). As such, the earliest date of public disclosure of the VisionPLUS® Online tool occurred after

¹ The printout from the BASF Refinish website appears to be incomplete because the image on the website is moving and cannot be printed.

Applicant's filing of the subject application. Therefore, the December 2000 public disclosure of the VisionPLUS® Online tool cannot be considered prior art against the subject application. It should also be noted that BASF does not market the subject invention under any other name other than VisionPLUS® Online (VPOL).

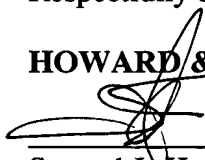
The Examiner also uncovered an article from August 1996 entitled *Paint Company Value-Added Programs & Services*. This article briefly identifies that BASF Canada "was in the process of re-engineering its value-added service offerings under a banner known as VisionPLUS". As discussed above, VisionPLUS® is BASF's group of value added programs and tools designed to assist companies in running their businesses. VisionPLUS® has been in existence for a number of years and has provided a variety of different services such as educational and warranty services or programs. However, as discussed above the VisionPLUS® Online tool was not implemented until December of 2000. Accordingly, although the August 1996 article mentions "VisionPLUS", this article does not mention or disclose VisionPLUS® Online. Applicant assures the Examiner that the VisionPLUS® Online tool was not part of the VisionPLUS® portfolio in August of 1996 and did not become part of the VisionPLUS® portfolio until December of 2000.

Applicant submits that the Requirements for Information under 37 CFR § 1.105 are now satisfied. If further information or clarification is needed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the Applicant via telephone.

As identified by the Examiner, no fees are required to respond to this requirement for information. However, if fees are deemed to be due, please charge deposit account no. 08-2789, or credit this deposit account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.

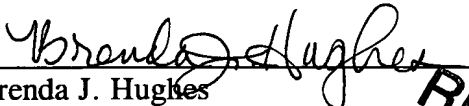


Samuel J. Haidle, Reg. No. 42,619
Attorneys for Applicant
39400 Woodward Avenue, Suite 101
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48304-5151
(248) 723-0334



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the enclosed Response to Requirement for Information Under 37 CFR § 1.105 is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on this 24th day of June, 2003.


Brenda J. Hughes

RECEIVED
JUN 30 2003
GROUP 3600

G:\B\BASF\Patents\Ip00046\PATENT\Resp to Require Info 37 CFR 1-105.doc